New major projects for Andhra Pradesh

1117. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any major projects have been undertaken in Andhra Pradesh by Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the status of such projects; and

(c) whether Government have evolved any method to reduced delay in execution of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways. As regards National Highways, 16 major projects (each costing more than Rs. 5.0 crores) at a total cost of about Rs. 1902 crores have been udnertaken in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years starting from 2002-03 (till date). These projects are in various stages of implementation and are expected to be completed by March, 2009.

(c) Yes, Sir. Several steps have been taken to reduce delay in execution of projects like:—

(i) Detailed work-wise review of works periodically at various ievels;

(ii) Appointment of Senior officers by the State Governments as Nodal officers for resolving problems related to implementation of projects such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/ pollution/environmental clearances etc.;

(iii) A Committee of Secretaries constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-Ministerial and Centre-State issues.

(iv) The procedure of issue of land acquisition notification has been simplified.

(v) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in the existing contracts.